

**Washington, DC** -Congresswoman Betty McCollum (MN-04) will commemorate Memorial Day by honoring Minnesota's veterans and bringing attention to the health challenges facing the service men and women now protecting America's freedoms.

"As the daughter of a World War II veteran, I am particularly concerned about post traumatic stress syndrome, which has claimed too many lives already. I am pleased that President Obama has committed to aggressively tackle the health needs of our veterans, including substance abuse, PTSD, suicide prevention and homelessness prevention," Congresswoman McCollum said.

Congress and the White House are working together to enact policies that recognize the sacrifices of the nation's troops, and the hardships military families face, by continuing to invest in improving healthcare and family services. There are about 2.3 million men and women serving in the U.S. Armed Forces, active and reserve. Those service members and their families continue to bear the brunt of the war.

"My thoughts are with the millions of military families in the U.S. and abroad during this Memorial Day. I am proud to live in a country that so values its veterans and we will continue to do more to support our service men and women in the battlefield and when they return home."

## Investing in Quality Healthcare for Veterans

### **POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER & TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY:**

Required a comprehensive DOD policy to address traumatic brain injury (TBI), post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), other mental health conditions, establishing DOD Centers of Excellence on PTSD and TBI to improve treatment, research, training and rehabilitation, requiring enrollment and registry of TBI patients to ensure continuity of care, guaranteeing veterans a VA mental health assessment within 30 days of request, expanding hiring to address shortage in mental health professionals, and strengthening DOD training for better detection of PTSD.

**LOWER COST, BETTER QUALITY MILITARY HEALTH CARE:** Protected military families from increases in TRICARE co-pays and deductibles, and restored over \$1 billion in military health care funding to continue to provide medical services to military families and their service members.

**STRENGTHENING PREVENTIVE HEALTH CARE:** Established a series of Preventive Health Care Projects, and waived co-payments for preventive services for all TRICARE beneficiaries.

**MILITARY HOSPITALS:** Provided \$2.3 billion for new hospitals that serve military personnel

and their families at Fort Benning, Fort Riley, Fort Hood, Camp Pendleton, and Camp Lejeune since 2007 (in the FY08 supplemental, the FY09 Milcon-VA appropriations bill, and ARRA).

**HISTORIC FUNDING FOR QUALITY VA HEALTH CARE:** Increased veterans' funding by \$17.7 billion (more than 40 percent) since January 2007 -- including the largest single increase in the history of the VA.

***Congresswoman Betty McCollum (MN-4) serves on the House Appropriations & Budget Committees.***

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